

Message Text

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EXDIS

E. O.: 11652: GDS
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SUBJ: CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT

TO BE PASSED OTHER POSTS AT DEPARTMENT' S DISCRETION

1. DURING FIRST COURTEST CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT APRIL 13, WE TOUCHED ON FOLLOWING SUBJECTS: US/ EC ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND PRESIDENT' S TRADE BILL, INDOCHINA, EC PARTICIPATION IN SPOKANE FAIR, ARAB/ ISRAELI VIOLENCE, LIBYAN MIRAGES (REPORTED SEPARATELY) AND CHINA.

2. US/ EC ECONOMIC RELATIONS: AFTER OPENING AMENITIES, IS ADAI THAT I HOPED TO HAVE FREQUENT OPPORTUNITIES OVER THE COMING MONTHS TO DISCUSS WITH JOBERT AND OTHER FRENCH OFFICIALS OUR COMMON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. IT IS IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS TRADE AND MONETARY ISSUES IN A FRANK, OPEN AND PRECISE MANNER SO AS TO AVOID MIS-INTERPRETATIONS WHICH WOULD HINDER OUR ABILITY TO ARRIVE AT COMMON SOLUTIONS. JOBERT SAID HE AGREED COMPLETELY AND EMPHASIZED " IMPORTANCE OF FOCUSING ON REAL PROBLEMS RATHER THAN FALSE ARGUMENTS."

TO ILLUSTRATE POINT, I CITED CERTAIN FRENCH PRESS REPORTS WHICH HAD MISREPRESENTED SECRETARY BUTZ' S STATEMENTS MADE APRIL 11 BEFORE OECD AGRUCULTURAL COMMITTEE. PRESS ALLEGED THAT SECRETARY HAD SAID US WOULD RESTRICT ACCESS OF EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL EXPORTS TO US MARKETS IF EUROPEANS DID NOT OPEN UP US AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS. GIST OF WHAT SECRETARY ACTUALLY SAID WAS THAT FORTHCOMING TRADE TALKS SHOULD INCLUDE AND BE USED TO LIBERALIZE BOTH AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL TRADE. JOBERT ADDED THAT FRENCH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE CHIRAC TOLD HIM AT APRIL 13 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
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MEETING THAT SECRETARY BUTZ HAD INDEED BEEN MISREPRESENTED ON THIS POINT BY THE PRESS. EMBPHASIZING THAT WE ARE NOT ATTACKING THE CAP PER SE BUT E. G. WOULD LIKE TO SEE ASPECTS OF IT SUCH AS THE PRICING OF CEREALS BE ADMINISTERED IN SUCH A WAY AS NOT TO BE SO PREJUDICIAL TO OUT AND OTHERS EXPORTS. I EXPRESSED HOPE WE COULD DISCUSS AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS IN BUSINESS- LIKE AND UNEMOTIONAL WAY. AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF FRENCH MISUNDERSTANDING OF US INTENTIONS, I CITEDS STATEMENT BY PATRONAT PRESIDENT CEYRAC APRIL 10 TO EF- FECT US SEEMED TO BE SEEKING UNILATERAL TRADE ADVANTAGES FROM MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. IN FACT, US OBJECTIVE IS NE- GOTIATED REDUCTION OF TARIFFS AND OF NTB' S TO PERMIT A BROAD EXPANSION OF TRADE TO BENEFIT OF ALL TRADING NATIONS.

3. PRESIDENT' S TRADE BILL . JOBERT SAID THE FRENCH ARE " PUZZLED" BY CERTAIN PROVISIONS IN THE PRESIDENT' S TRADE BILL. HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND REQUESTED AUTHORITY ALLOWING PRESIDENT TO MOVE AGAINST COUNTRIES THOUGHT TO BE DISCRIMINATING AGAINST CERTAIN US PRODUCTS, NOR THE PROVISION TO ALLOW HIM TO CORRECT BALANCE- OF- PAYMENTS DEFICITS THROUGH TEMPORARY IMPORT CURBS. I REPLIED THAT TRADE BILL CONTAINED BROAD POWERS FOR MOVEMENT UP OR DOWN AND THAT IT WAS A COMPREHENSIVE BILL WHICH TOOK INTO ACCOUNT ALL ECONOMIC FACTORS RELATING TO COMMERCE. BILL SHOULD BE SEEN ALSO WITHIN POLITICA AND PUBLIC OPINION CONTEXT IN THE US. JOBERT ASKED WHY BILL WAS NECESSARY, BECAUSE PRESIDENT SEEMED TO HAVE ALL THE AUTHORITY HE NEEDED NOW. I REPLIED THAT IT WAS TRADITIONAL TO OB- TAIN SPECIFIC APPRROVAL FROM CONGRESS PRIOR TO ENTERING MAJOR INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS OF SUCH SCOPE. FURTHER, AUTHORITY TO TAKE REMEDIAL ACTIONS IN CERTAIN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, SUCH AS IN AUGUST, 1971, WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TO COVER MAJOR NEGOTIATION OPEN- ING NEXT FALL. FINALLY, I NOTED IMPORTANCE FOR USG OF HAVING BROAD MANDATE FROM CONGRESS WHICH WOULD PUT EXECUTIVE BRANCH ON SAME FOOTING WITH CERTAIN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE FAR BROADER, STANDING AUTHORITY IN SUCH MATTERS.

4. INDOCHINA. I NOTED WITH APPRECIATION THAT THE FRENCH GOVERN- MENT HAD JUST ANNOUNCED ITS DECISION TO RE- ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL WITH THE GVN. JOBERT SAID HE TOO WAS PLEASED, ADDING THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY WORKED HARD TO ENSURE THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SAIGON AND HANOI BE TIMED AS SIMULTANEOUSLY AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID DE- LEGATE GENERAL CHAYET WOULD RETURN TO PARIS NEXT WEEK FOR BRIEF- INGS BEFORE GOING BACK TO HANOI AS AMBASSADOR. AS FOR SAIGON,

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FRENCH WOULD SEND A NEW MAN AS AMBASSADOR. I SPOKE OF US' CONCERN OVER CONTINUING FIGHTING IN CAMBODIA COUNTRY TO AGREEMENT, OVER SERIOUS VIOLATIONS BY COMMUNISTS OF PEACE AGREEMENTS IN VIETNAM AND OBSTRUCTIVE TACTICS THERE OF POLISH AND HUNGARIAN MEMBERS OF THE ICCS. I STRESSED DESIRE THAT FRANCE USE ITS INFLUENCE TO PRESS HANOI TO HONOR AGREEMENT, WITH POLAND AND HUNGARY TO MAKE ICCS WORK, AND WITH USSR AND PRC ON ALL ASPECTS OF PEACE EFFORT. I SAID CONSEQUENCES OF CONTINUED DRV VIOLATIONS COULD BE VERY SERIOUS. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING GOF CONCERN OVER DEVELOPMENTS, JOBERT WAS NON-COMMITTAL AS TO WHAT FRANCE MIGHT DO TO HELP. JOBERT ASKED WHETHER WE KNEW WHAT SIHANOUK HAD ACCOMPLISHED DURING REPORTED VISIT TO CAMBODIA, TO WHICH I REPLIED THAT I DID NOT KNOW.

5. SPOKANE EXPOSITION. DRAWING ON STATE 69056, I EXPLAINED IMPORTANCE OF EXPOSITION TO US AND ASKED JOBERT TO RECONSIDER FRENCH POSITION ON COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE SPOKANE EXPOSITION. JOBERT SAID HE WAS TOTALLY UNINFORMED ABOUT THIS PROBLEM, BUT PROMISED TO LOOK INTO IT TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE.

6. ARAB/ ISRAEL VIOLENCE. UNDERLINING US CONCERN OVER SPIRALING VIOLENCE IN THE ME, I NOTED THAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD MADE A STATEMENT FOLLOWING ITS CABINET MEETING APRIL 13 IN WHICH IT "DEPLORED" THE ISRAELI COMMANDO RAID IN BEIRUT (REPORTED SEPTEL) BUT HAD SAID NOTHING ABOUT THE FATAH OPERATION IN NICOSIA. JOBERT SMILED SOMEWHAT WEAKLY AND SAID THAT FRENCH STATEMENT WAS "ROUTINE" AND WAS MINIMUM IT COULD SAY ON THIS PUBLICITY. I ALLOWED THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE BALANCED TO NOTE THE ARAB VIOLENCE IN THE SAME STATEMENT. JOBERT SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT "OUR HABIT", ADDING THAT HE HAD HOWEVER ADDRESSED THE QUESTION OF ARAB VIOLENCE AS WELL AS ISRAELI ACT IN CABINET MEETING.

7. CHINA. JOBERT ENQUIRED AS TO THE HEALTH OF AMBASSADOR WATSON. I NOTED THAT HE WAS CURRENTLY ON A PRIVATE VISIT TO CHINA. JOBERT SAID HE WOULD BE GOING TO CHINA (PRESUMABLY WITH PRESIDENT POMPIDOU) IN SEPTEMBER.
IRWIN

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